

MINUTES
BALTIMORE COUNTY *Linking Communities to the Montreal Process*
***Criteria and Indicators* PROJECT**

STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
Tuesday, September 2, 2003
DEPRM Office, 401 Bosley Ave., Towson 21204

Attending:

Charlie Conklin (Gunpowder Valley Conservancy); Jo Owen (Watershed Protection Coalition); Mel Noland and Lucy Wright (County Forestry Board); Jeff Horan and Rob Prenger (DNR); Don Outen, Pat Cornman, and Bret Sage (DEPRM).

Welcome and Agenda Review:

Don Outen welcomed those in attendance and opened the meeting at 10:00, and attendees introduced themselves. Don conveyed regrets from a few members who could not attend, including Christine Duce, who is recovering from an auto accident.

Review of Minutes:

The draft minutes were accepted without changes.

Announcements:

Mel Noland updated the group about the opportunity, through contact with David Nelson of Glatfelter Pulpwood, to tour the municipal drinking water reservoir lands that Glatfelter manages for the City of Hanover PA. The committee expressed interest and discussed who should be invited to attend. It was recommended that several individuals known to be opposed to any forest harvesting be invited. Other interest groups, elected officials, and agency folks were named as potential invitees for the tour. Lucy and Mel offered to make arrangements for the tour, and they will get details to everyone by separate email.

Discussion:

The Hanover tour discussion widened to include questions and commentary about past forest management practices in general and for the Baltimore municipal reservations in particular. The discussion was lively and concluded with the realization that many citizens are unconvinced that today's sustainable forestry is different than past practices. The legacy of procurement forestry and other practices heavily burdens our current efforts for sustainable forestry. We can't change the past but have a major challenge in educating folks today that forest management can meet both ecological and socio-economic needs.

In keeping with this discussion and the comments about education and buy-in from the July 29 meeting, it was proposed that the group focus on preparation of a "white paper" or issues paper. Further detailed work on developing indicators is probably best delayed until the Issues Paper is completed. The Issues Paper should present as concisely as possible what our Montreal Process Project is trying to accomplish. Following the forest sustainability issues identified at the June 10 Forum, the Issues Paper needs to make the case for action for sustainable forest management in Baltimore County, including the use of indicators for assessment and measuring change/progress. The Issues Paper will be a consensus statement of what direction the Steering Committee recommends for implementing the Project, and it will be used to further educate others and to obtain both citizen and political support for our Montreal Process Project.

It was also suggested that the Issues Paper might be presented to the County Council in support of a request for a Resolution for Project implementation. The Issues paper should be prepared as soon as possible. The committee was asked to think about this more and help outline the Issues Paper for the October meeting.

Jeff Horan offered that current DNR work on the Strategic Forest Lands Assessment might be of interest and be useful for development of the Issues Paper. The Assessment identifies current and future threats to the State's forest resources, and uses indicators and maps to help visualize the ecological and socio-economic assessments. Jeff kindly agreed to make a presentation at the October meeting.

Action Items:

1. Lucy and Mel will organize the Glatfelter Hanover watershed forestry tour.
2. Committee members will review the proposed vision statements and provide additional input.
3. Jeff Horan will present the DNR Strategic Forest Lands Assessment project.
4. The committee will provide input on the outline for the Issues Paper for the next meeting.

Next Meeting:]

The next Steering Committee meeting was announced for Tuesday, October 7, from 10:00 to 12:00, at the Sherwood House at the County's Cromwell Valley Park.

Directions: Exit Baltimore Beltway (Exit 29) at Cromwell Bridge Road. Proceed east on Cromwell Bridge Road and turn left about 1 mile into the Park entrance. Proceed down the drive, cross the stream and take the right fork of the road after the bridge. Continue on the loop road in front of the Sherwood House and park in the gravel lot on the east side of the house.

Adjournment:

The attendees were thanked for participating, and the meeting was adjourned at 12:15 PM.